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NEWS NOTES

Mr. Philip C. Tucker, 3d, has presented to the Texas State Historical Association a number of objects of much historical interest: (1) The original duplicate of the first seal of the General Land Office of the Republic of Texas. The financial agent of the Republic in New Orleans was instructed in 1836 to have this seal engraved, but delay attending the execution of the commission interfered with delivery of the seal when completed; in consequence it remained in private hands until now. (2) Two maps: one a "map of Galveston Island copied from surveys made by J. M. Wampler in 1849 and 1850 under the direction of the U. S. Coast Survey"; the other a map of the city of Galveston. (3) A package of manuscripts, comprising the minutes of a special grand jury, impaneled for the purpose of investigating and sequestering the property of alien enemies of the Confederacy. The jury was sworn and charged by Judge William P. Hill of the District Court of the Confederate States of America for the Eastern District of Texas, November 18, 1861, and extended to January 11, 1862. Accompanying the minutes are two reports of property of alien enemies and forty indictments filled out over the printed signature of William P. Ballinger, Receiver for Confederate States of America. The fact that records of the Confederate courts are almost unknown makes this gift of special importance.

Mr. William Edward Dunn, whose article on the Spanish Search for La Salle's Colony appears in this number of *THE QUARTERLY*, is now in Seville, Spain, making transcripts of documents bearing on the history of Texas and the Southwest. The work is financed by the University of Texas, in which Mr. Dunn is Instructor in Spanish-American History, the University of California, the Library of Congress, and the Texas State Library. Down to December 30, 1915, some 4000 pages had been transcribed.

In a review of historical activity in the Southwest, published in the March number of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*,

Professor Walter L. Fleming, of Louisiana State University, gives considerable attention to work originating in the University of Texas.

Moritz Tiling, author of the *History of the German Element in Texas from 1820-1850*, reviewed in THE QUARTERLY, XVII, 212, died at his home in Houston, February 18, 1916.

James D. Walthall, former Attorney General of Texas, and several other prominent Texans, perished in the fire that destroyed the San Antonio Country Club March 26, 1916.

Colonel George Wythe Baylor, a noted Indian fighter and Texas Ranger of earlier days, and a member of Terry's Texas Rangers during the Civil War, died at San Antonio March 27. The *San Antonio Express* of March 28 contains a sketch of his career.

AFFAIRS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The annual business meeting of the Texas State Historical Association was held at the University of Texas March 2, 1916. Eleven active members and two honorary members were added to the Association. For the ensuing year the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Adèle B. Looscan (Houston); Vice-Presidents, Col. George W. Brackenridge (San Antonio), Hon. R. C. Crane (Sweetwater), Miss Katie Daffan (Austin), Mrs. Cornelia Branch Stone (Galveston); Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Chas. W. Ramsdell. Mr. E. W. Winkler was elected to the Executive Council from the Fellows for the term ending March, 1919, and Miss Julia Pease was elected from among the members for the term ending 1921. Mrs. Looscan, Eugene C. Barker, Herbert E. Bolton, E. W. Winkler and Z. T. Fulmore were elected to the Publication Committee. The Association adopted resolutions endorsing the plans for the celebration of the bi-centennial of the founding of San Antonio, and pledged its support to the undertaking. It also adopted resolutions thanking Hon. R. C. Crane, of Sweetwater, for his efficient service in